

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12, 17, 23 and 31-42 stand rejected.

Claims 20 and 22 have been allowed.

Applicants have now filed a Request for Continuing Examination (RCE) with this Preliminary Amendment.

Section 103 Rejections

Claim 1 has been rejected as being obvious in view of Sugiyama and Al-Tuwaijry. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited in amended claim 1, now includes features which are not anticipated or suggested by the cited references, namely:

- the public and secret keys, or the common key are used for **transmitting a sole single key from a transmission unit to a plurality of receiving units depending on the significance degree of the digital AV data**, and
- the sole single key does not depend on the respective receiving units, ...

During a telephone Interview with the Examiner on March 8, 2006, the Examiner stated that she is interpreting claim 1 as reciting that "the sole single key is transmitted to the receiving units depending on a security level." The Examiner stated that she is interpreting the "security level" as being un-related to the "data significance deciding means that decides the significance degree of digital AV data" (see first paragraph of claim 1).

The Examiner suggested, during the Interview, that the "security level" should be related to the **"significance degree of the digital AV data"**.

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As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have now amended claim 1, so that the sole single key is transmitted to the receiving units depending on the significance degree of the digital AV data.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

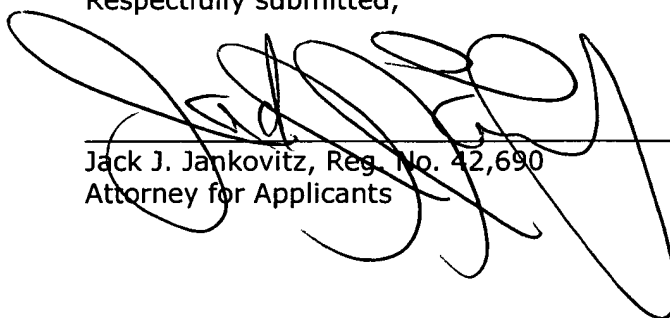
Although not the same, independent claims 2, 3, 7-9, 17, 20, 22, 23 and 31-33 have been further amended to include features similar to now amended claim 1. These claims are, therefore, also not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

The remaining pending claims are dependent, respectfully, from the above amended independent claims and, therefore, are not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1. Reconsideration is requested.

Conclusion

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12, 17, 20, 22-23 and 31-42 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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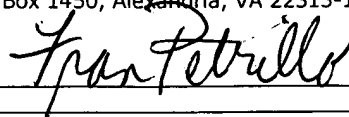
Dated: April 25, 2006

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April 25, 2006



Fran Petrucci

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